



Cradle Country

This route lets you experience the true variety of Tasmania's landscape, from the north coast's patchwork hinterland to the renowned Cradle Mountain on the edge of the Tasmanian World Heritage Area. Meander among Sheffield's outdoor murals, wonder at Mt Roland's stark dominance and explore Latrobe's heritage streetscape on a route rich in cultural heritage, wine, food and, of course, unforgettable wild nature.

SUGGESTED ITINERARY

DAY 1

If you are arriving by ship from Melbourne or Sydney, you can begin both your rejuvenating Tasmanian holiday and your Cradle Country Touring Route in Devonport.

Straddling the Mersey River on the central north coast, this cheerful, bustling town welcomes passengers from the three Spirits of Tasmania with informal eateries that are just the place for refreshing yourself after your voyage.

Walk along foreshore tracks to the Devonport

Chocolate Truffles



Cradle Mountain

Maritime Museum and Tiagarra Aboriginal Centre, or drive just 4km out of town on the Bass Highway to the Don River Railway. Passenger trains have all but disappeared from Tasmania...except this one – a full-sized locomotive service from the Don Village Station to Coles Beach every day. The trip takes 30 minutes return, and steam trains operate on Sundays and public holidays.

Drive south from Devonport to the historic streetscapes of Latrobe where treasures hide in its many antique stores and where the House of Anvers' qualified confectionery staff temper and



mould fine chocolates, truffles, pralines and fudge according to the authentic method taught to them by expert Belgian chocolate-maker Igor van Gerwen.

Also in Latrobe is the Australian Axeman's Hall of Fame, where champion axemen and women give regular woodchopping exhibitions and are always happy to chat about their sport and the secrets of their success.

In a half-day tour from Devonport, food lovers can visit Elizabeth Town to sample traditional English country cheeses such as cheddar and Lancashire at Ashgrove Farm Cheese and fresh fruit produce at the Christmas Hills Raspberry Farm. Villaret Gardens at Kimberley also serves excellent Tasmanian fare.

DAY 2

Travel to Cradle Mountain via Sheffield, "The Town of Murals". With the impressive Mount Roland as its gallery and the walls of shops and public buildings as its canvasses, this town has depicted its rich social history in more than 40 extensive outdoor murals that draw admirers from all over the country.

Lake Barrington Vineyard



Ashgrove Farm Cheese

While Sheffield is famous for its murals, the nearby towns of Railton and Wilmot have their own outdoor art. Railton is home to an impressive display of topiary plants, and Wilmot boasts an extensive collection of innovative and humorous letterboxes.

From Sheffield, visit the world's largest maze complex, Tasmazia, for delectable pancakes, or sample local wines at Lake Barrington Vineyard -. Then continue past the international-standard Lake Barrington Rowing Course to the jewel of the north-west, Cradle

Mountain.

The Cradle Valley area has a range of accommodation that allows you to explore its attractions at leisure. Take an interpretive tour of Dove Lake in the World Heritage Area – walk the Dove Lake Circuit and explore the original Waldhiem homestead. After dinner discover the haunts and habits of our fascinating native animals on a wildlife spotlighting tour.

DAY 3

You'll have time the following day for another of Cradle Mountain's magical walks, or perhaps





Creative Paper Mills, Burnie

even a trail ride or four-wheel-drive motorcycle tour just outside the park boundaries. View world class photography at the Wilderness Gallery before travelling to the west coast via Waratah.

Just four kilometres off the main highway, Waratah was once the richest tin mine in the world, and fossicking is still popular around the Magnet and Mt Bischoff mine sites. Famous for its local wildflowers, the town is also noted for the gorge and waterfall in its main street. Walk to the floor of the gorge to explore the derelict hydro power station.

Burnie is the main commercial centre servicing the mining towns of the west coast but it also boasts some great cultural experiences. On the approach road are the Emu Valley Rhododendron Gardens, which are at their best in spring but are spectacular throughout summer and autumn.

Creative Paper tells of Burnie's links to the paper industry and produces fine hand-crafted paper products. The talents of the town's paper sculptors are on show here in displays of detailed, life-sized "paper people". Why not try your hand?

Taste the award-winning Tasmanian Heritage range of cheese or the classic St Clare Swiss at the Lactos Cheese Factory, or buy local fruit and produce direct from growers and makers at the town's fortnightly farmers markets.

DAY 4

If returning to Devonport along the Great Nature Trail, follow the scenic coast road through Ulverstone and Penguin, or perhaps detour into the hinterland to visit Gunn's Plains Caves, Leven Canyon and Wing Farm Park and wildlife centre. Westward along the great nature trail lies Stanley and a broad range of nature-based and heritage experiences.

Mt Roland

